

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
March 14, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julie Bauer, Joe McCormick, John Prendergast, Jonathan Martin, Joshua Anderson

**TOWNSHIP STAFF:** Justin Smiley, Township Planner

Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group  
Theresa Santalucia, Board of Supervisors Liaison

**I. Call to Order** – Vice-Chairman Joe McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid meeting with participants attending both in person at the Township Building and on-line via Zoom.

**II. Approval of Minutes for January 10, 2022**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of January 10, 2022  
(McCormick/Anderson)

**Vote:** Passed, 5-0

**III. Public Comment**

Al Markle was in attendance and advised that he and his son recently purchased the Pennypacker House, a Class I historic resource. Mr. Markle asked how the designation will impact his renovation/rehabilitation of the property. Mr. Yocum explained that "Class I" indicates that the property is listed or is eligible for listing on the National Register, and that the Historical Commission has the ability to delay demolition. Mr. Markle assured the Commission that he has no intention of demolishing the property, but rather wishes to renovate it to be used as his son's residence.

Mr. McCormick commended Mr. Markle on his decision to rehabilitate the property and extended an invitation to Mr. Markle to become a member of the Historical Commission. He further explained that the Commission's goal is to preserve historic properties. Mr. Markle said he is interested in preserving the interior now from spring rains by replacing the roof and making stucco repairs, and he asked if there were any special requirements for this work. Mr. Yocum explained that it is generally appropriate to match the material that is there now, and to maintain historic fabric. Replace in kind is the preferred approach. He added that the Commission's focus is on the exterior, not the interior. Mr. Markle said he hopes to return to the Commission next month with a plan for roof replacement and stucco repairs.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **1. McGlinchey – Guernsey Cow Dairy Bar Materials Donation**

Mr. Smiley passed around samples of materials from the Guernsey Cow Dairy Bar donated by Sean McGlinchey. The materials will be placed in the Township's historic files.

##### **2. Buckley – 1784 Patent to George Thomas Donation Request: The Historical Commission to accept the document and provide a letter of acceptance of the Donation back to the Buckleys**

Mr. Smiley explained that Joseph Buckley, presently of Carlisle, PA, has offered to donate the original patent for the Thomas Mill to the Township in exchange for a letter of acceptance. Mr. Smiley said the original seal is still on the document and suggested possibly framing and hanging the document in one of the Township's meeting rooms.

**Motion: To accept the donation of the George Thomas patent.**

**Vote: Passed 5-0 (McCormick/Martin)**

Mr. Smiley will draft the letter of acceptance to the Buckleys.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **1. Historic Resource Timeline (Display Samples/Estimate)**

Mr. Smiley showed samples from Paramount Signs of the Township's historic timeline to be placed on the wall in the first floor hallway leading to the Township meeting room. Photos to go along with the text have been sent to the design team at Paramount to see if they can be successfully enlarged. There is no timeline for completion yet, but the final will come before the Commission for review. There was discussion regarding the lack of historic photos of people and railroads. Suggestions of places to look for same included the Chester County Historical Society, Daily Local News, and the West Chester Borough Committee to Restore Rail Service.

##### **2. Historic Resource Survey Update (County Review)**

Mr. Smiley advised that the Board of Supervisors accepted the Historic Resource Survey on February 23, 2022. Next steps include filing for reimbursement from the County and the creation of a story map of the survey forms and photos. Mr. Smiley hopes to have a draft ready for the April 11 HC meeting. Original photos from the History of West Whiteland booklet are not available and scans appear very dark, but Staff is working on a solution, and the completed booklet will also be available on the Township's website.

#### **VI. Historical Commission Concerns:**

Ms. Bauer reported that an architect from Harleysville is interested in the Witch's Cap for one of his restorations projects and hopes to come and see the Cap sometime this week. Mr.

Smiley estimates that the Township will exit the Barn when the new Public Works facility is constructed. Equipment currently stored in the Barn can then be moved to the new facility.

**VII. Announcements**

The Commission discussed how many members there should be on the Historical Commission. There are currently 10 spots allowed, but only 7 are currently filled, and with Ms. Eckman and Mr. Kabli unable to attend recently, it has left the Commission without a quorum on some occasions. Mr. Smiley said Ms. Eckman has indicated that she may be resigning her position soon. Ajay Philip has indicated a willingness to serve as either a member or alternate. After discussion, members agreed that a total of 7 members with an alternate would be good. Also, with the Commission seeking Certified Local Government status, it would be good and would be allowed to seek members that reside outside of the Township. Ms. Bauer offered to contact Ms. Eckman and Mr. Kabli about moving to alternate status.

Mr. Smiley advised that the recordings of the Board of Supervisors' meetings will now be available for viewing by the public and asked if the HC would like to do the same for its meetings. After brief discussion, the matter was tabled to the April meeting.

Mr. Smiley asked if any members would like to volunteer to be interviewed by West Chester University students working on the Crossroads project. All members volunteered.

Ms. Bauer advised that she has not yet received a response from Nancy Carnes regarding her availability to conduct an oral history of her experience living at Lochiel Farm during the 1950's and 60's.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.  
(Bauer/McCormick)**

**Vote: Passed, 5-0**

Recording Secretary,



Justin Smiley, AICP  
Township Planner